

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Duval County

Florida · Jacksonville · FIPS 12031 · Population 995,708 ·
Crosodo Index #1362*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Fla. Stat. \$500.80	Great	250000	HIGH	2026-05-06

IMPORTANT – NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

FLORIDA: DUVAL COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1362* · FIPS 12031 · Jacksonville

Duval County

Population 995,708 · State baseline: Fla. Stat. §500.80 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Florida’s cottage food law (§500.80) requires production in the kitchen of the operator’s residence only. Motor home kitchens and rented kitchens are not permitted. Production must occur at the cottage food operator’s primary residence. Duval County and the City of Jacksonville are a consolidated city-county government since 1968; all unincorporated Duval County is governed by the City of Jacksonville. Florida preempts local regulation of cottage food operations (§500.80(6)).)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Florida state law does not address pets in cottage food kitchens. FDACS guidance does not prohibit pets but standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Florida §559.955 (Home-based businesses; local government restrictions) substantially limits local regulation of home-based businesses. Local governments cannot license or regulate home-based businesses beyond business tax receipts (chapter 205) and cannot impose requirements more stringent than those for residences without businesses. Jacksonville/Duval zoning code (Chapter 656) allows home occupations in residential districts as a permitted use meeting performance standards in §656.401(n). Jacksonville requires: resident operators only, business incidental and subordinate to residential use, no change to residential character, no exterior business evidence. Jacksonville’s consolidated city-county government applies a single code across all of what was formerly unincorporated Duval County. A home occupation permit review may be required for Jacksonville addresses; contact the City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Per §500.80(7), FDACS may inspect only upon receipt of a complaint alleging a violation. No routine inspections. Refusal to permit inspection is grounds for disciplinary action. State-level only — county/local health inspections not applicable.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Florida’s cottage food law (§500.80) requires production in the kitchen of the operator’s residence only. Motor home kitchens and rented kitchens are not permitted. Production must occur at the cottage food operator’s primary residence. Duval County and the City of Jacksonville are a consolidated city-county government since 1968; all unincorporated Duval County is governed by the City of Jacksonville. Florida preempts local regulation of cottage food operations (§500.80(6)).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Florida state law does not address pets in cottage food kitchens. FDACS guidance does not prohibit pets but standard food safety practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water from a properly constructed on-site well or municipal water system required per FDACS guidance.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required per state food safety guidance; no additional county requirement.
FOOD STORAGE	Products must be stored on the premises of the cottage food operation per §500.80(4). Septic system adequacy for additional wastewater should be verified with the local health department if relevant.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Per §500.80(7), FDACS may inspect only upon receipt of a complaint alleging a violation. No routine inspections. Refusal to permit inspection is grounds for disciplinary action. State-level only — county/local health inspections not applicable.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Florida §559.955 (Home-based businesses; local government restrictions) substantially limits local regulation of home-based businesses. Local governments cannot license or regulate home-based businesses beyond business tax receipts (chapter 205) and cannot impose requirements more stringent than those for residences without businesses. Jacksonville/Duval zoning code (Chapter 656) allows home occupations in residential districts as a permitted use meeting performance standards in §656.401(n). Jacksonville requires: resident operators only, business incidental and subordinate to residential use, no change to residential character, no exterior business evidence. Jacksonville’s consolidated city-county government applies a single code across all of what was formerly unincorporated Duval County. A home occupation permit review may be required for Jacksonville addresses; contact the City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Under Florida §500.80(2), products may be delivered in person to consumer, to specific event venue, or by USPS/commercial carrier. Online orders and mail-order accepted. No wholesale sales permitted. Retail transactions at a structure other than the residential dwelling are not permitted per §559.955(3). On-site customer pickup allowed if consistent with residential character and not generating excessive traffic. County and municipal laws on traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours of retail operation still apply per §500.80(6).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Up to 2 non-resident employees or independent contractors may work at the residence per Florida §559.955(3)(a); additional remote employees permitted.

Relevant county code

Jacksonville Code of Ordinances, Chapter 656 (Zoning Code), §656.401(n) Home Occupations; Fla. Stat. §500.80; Fla. Stat. §559.955

RESEARCH NOTES

Duval County and the City of Jacksonville have been a consolidated city-county government since 1968 (Consolidated City of Jacksonville). Florida’s state preemption (§500.80(6)) is strong and explicit: ‘A local law, ordinance, or regulation may not prohibit a cottage food operation or regulate the preparation, processing, storage, or sale of cottage food products.’ However, cottage food operations must comply with §559.955 home-based business conditions. The FDACS guidance document explicitly confirms no FDACS license or permit is required and no state entity inspects cottage food operations except upon complaint. Jacksonville’s Chapter 656 zoning code allows home occupations as a permitted use in residential districts subject to performance standards (§656.401(n)). UF/IFAS Extension Duval County actively supports cottage food entrepreneurs through the Homemade Entrepreneurship program. The \$250,000 annual gross sales cap applies statewide. Florida §559.955 (2025) significantly limits local regulatory authority over home-based businesses including cottage food operations, permitting only business tax receipts and parking/signage rules consistent with residential standards.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://duval.floridahealth.gov>

[https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html)

[App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0500%2FSections%2F0500.80.html](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0559%2FSections%2F0559.955.html)

[https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0559%2FSections%2F0559.955.html)

[App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0559%2FSections%2F0559.955.html](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599%2F0559%2FSections%2F0559.955.html)

<https://ccmedia.fdacs.gov/content/download/70108/file/CottageFoodOperations.pdf>

https://www.zoneomics.com/code/jacksonville-FL/chapter_4

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/duvalco/2021/07/01/did-you-know-cottage-food-exemption/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/florida/duval-county-discuss>

State context — Florida cottage food law

Duval County's rules sit on top of Florida's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE Fla. Stat. §500.80	ANNUAL SALES CAP 250000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED No	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
INDIRECT SALES Limited (see notes) — Florida prohibits wholesale sales but allows online, mail-order, and in-person sales including delivery to consumers; state law preempts local restrictions on cottage food operations.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Florida cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599/0500/Sections/0500.80.html

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Food/Cottage-Foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/florida/>

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Duval County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/florida/duval-county-discuss>
